

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0068

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2930

LIMDIS

SECDEF FOR DDR&E DIRECTOR CURRIE AND ASST. SEC. ELLSWORTH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BEXP, NO, NATO, FR

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN ACQUISITION OF ROLAND II -- CURRENT STATUS

1. DEFENSE MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE LASSE AASLAND HAS
INFORMED US THAT MINISTER FOSTERVOLL REMAINS MOST ANXIOUS
TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF PURCHASING A SHORAD SYSTEM --
HOPEFULLY THE US VERSION OF THE ROLAND II -- BEFORE THE SUMMER
IS OVER.

2. FOSTERVOLL'S CONCERN FOCUSES ON: (A) COMPETITION FOR FUNDING
AS WELL AS (B) THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE DEFENSE REVIEW COMMISSION
WILL SEEK TO PLAY A ROLE THEREBY FORCING AN UNDESIRABLE, LENGTHY
POSTPONEMENT OF THE DECISION. FOSTERVOLL IS ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY
THINKING OF THE POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT HE STANDS TO SUFFER SINCE
THE GOVERNMENT ALREADY HAS A PROPOSAL OF QUESTIONABLE VALIDITY
(TO ACQUIRE THE US PRODUCED VERSION BUT WITHOUT REQUIRED FRENCH
CONSENT) BEFORE THE STORTING. THAT PROPOSAL WAS NOT ACTED UPON
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DURING THE SPRING SESSION BY THE STORTING DEFENSE COMMITTEE.

3. AASLAND STATED THAT NORWAY REGARDS THE CURRENT DISCUSSIONS AS STRICTLY BETWEEN FRANCE, FRG, AND US. ALTHOUGH NORWAY WILL, ACCORDINGLY, ADOPT A LOW PROFILE, AASLAND ASSURED US THAT NORWAY STANDS READY TO ASSIST THE US IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE.

4. ACCORDING TO THE UNDERSECRETARY, MINISTER FOSTERVOLL IS PLANNING TO VISIT FRG MOD LEBER FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO. ALTHOUGH I PLAN TO DEFRIEF FOSTERVOLL UPON HIS RETURN FROM GERMANY, THE OPPORTUNITY DOES EXIST FOR ME ALSO TO COMMUNICATE TO THE MINISTER ANY POINTS DOD OR STATE BELIEVE WOULD FURTHER OUR INTERESTS PRIOR TO FOSTERVOLL'S DEPARTURE.

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